

HB 536 -- Licensure of Prescribing Psychologists

Sponsor: Dixon

This bill authorizes the licensure of prescribing psychologists under the State Committee of Psychologists in the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration. Persons licensed as prescribing psychologists will be authorized to prescribe certain Schedule II stimulants and Schedule IV tranquilizers or any other psychological treatment or laboratory test as it relates to the practice of psychology, excluding electrical convulsive therapy. A licensed prescribing psychologist cannot purchase, administer, or dispense medication.

Prescribing psychologist licenses will only be issued to licensed psychologists who meet certain criteria established in the bill. These requirements include completing 400 hours of didactic educational training recommended by the American Psychological Association or completing a post-doctoral master degree in psychopharmacology; completing a one-year fellowship, with weekly supervision of a physician and maintaining a full-time caseload of patients during the year with duties of medication management, psychological evaluations, and therapeutic services; and passing a national examination testing competency to engage in the practice of prescriptive authority. The division may establish rules creating additional requirements based on current educational guidelines stated in the American Psychological Association's publication of Recommended Postdoctoral Training in Psychopharmacology for Prescription Privileges.

After receiving his or her license to prescribe, a psychologist must enter into a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician for one year.

Psychologists holding prescribing authorization are required to maintain appropriate medical liability insurance and complete at least 20 hours of psychopharmacology continuing education credit within the two-year period preceding a license renewal in addition to their general 40-hour continuing education requirement.

Pharmacists are authorized to fill prescriptions written by licensed prescribing psychologists.